

# St. Asaph Park

## History and Character

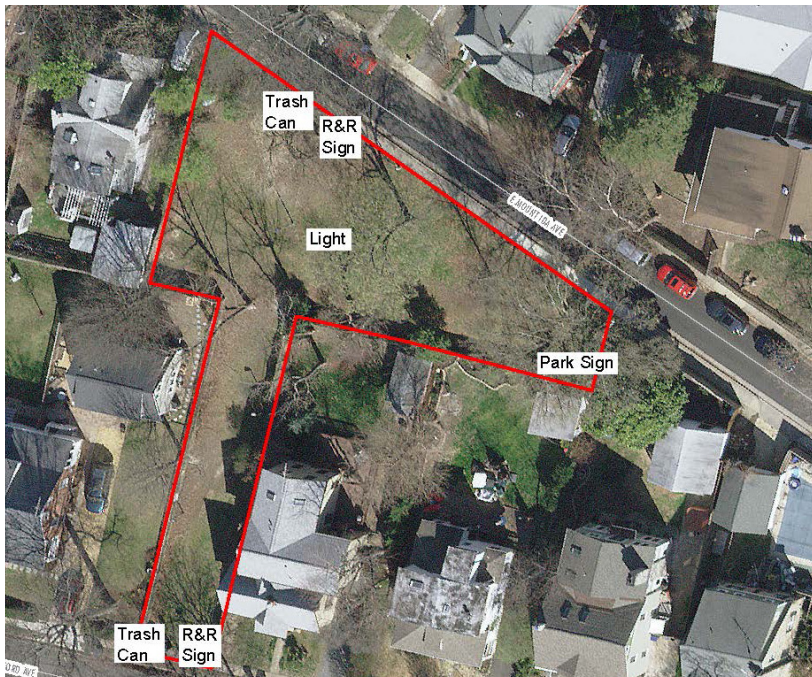
St. Asaph Park is located at 221 East Mount Ida Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood. There are no documented historic sites within the park.

The Del Ray Citizen's Association has adopted St. Asaph Park.

The 0.26 acre park is located along East Mt. Ida Avenue with an additional entrance along East Oxford Avenue. The surrounding neighborhood includes residential homes, the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Service headquarters, Mount Vernon Community School, Mount Vernon Recreation Center, and the popular commercial area along Mount Vernon Avenue.

The park features large shade trees, grassy passive space, and small lights. The park is unprogrammed despite being located in an active neighborhood.

## Existing Conditions Map



# St. Asaph Park

| Which of the following existing park elements would you like to preserve, enhance, or transform? |                |         |                                |                   |         |
|--|----------------|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Element<br>Number of responses   | Park sign<br>1 |         | Element<br>Number of responses | Pass through<br>1 |         |
| Value  | Count          | Percent | Value                          | Count             | Percent |
| Preserve it  | 0              | 0       | Preserve it                    | 0                 | 0       |
| Enhance it   | 1              | 100     | Enhance it                     | 1                 | 100     |
| Transform it   | 0              | 0       | Transform it                   | 0                 | 0       |

| Element<br>Number of responses | Open Area<br>1 |         |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Value                          | Count          | Percent |
| Preserve it                    | 0              | 0       |
| Enhance it                     | 0              | 0       |
| Transform it                   | 1              | 100     |

## What is currently NOT in the park that you would like to see there?

1. Something that could be a gathering spot for neighbors - game table/bocce court/picnic table

| St. Asaph     |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Preserve      | Enhance   | Transform   |
| 1. open space | 1. Picnic table<br>2. Get rid of swamp.<br>3. Public lot -- to connect both sides | 1. Remove center light that blocks the open space<br>2. Remove barberry bushes, replace with native plants.<br>3. Clean up <del>the</del> and remove weeds add secret garden. |

The image above are the results from the open house used to feed the initial St. Asaph park plan community survey, which was then used to create the draft recommendations.

## Community Feedback

In Fall 2018, staff collected community feedback to understand how the park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey, community workshop, and community meeting. Over 400 people responded to the survey in total, 7 of which were specific to St. Asaph Park. Staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

## In 10 years, I would like this Park to...

(Top 3 rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

1. Be a safe place for children to explore
2. Be a place to relax
3. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors



The image above is an example of a traffic box that has a mylar wrap around it. The plan for St. Asaph Park recommends wrapping the existing utility box with a nature inspired, artistic mylar wrap.

Colorful mylar wraps, convert functional infrastructure into community art pieces.

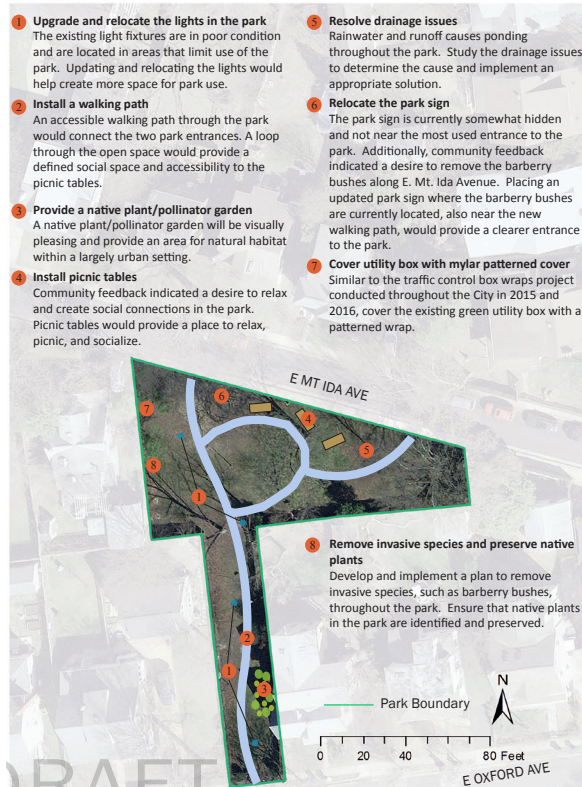
# St. Asaph Park

| Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like? |                         |         |                     |                      |         |
|--|-------------------------|---------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Recommendation   | Lights                  |         | Recommendation      | Path                 |         |
| Number of responses  | 34                      |         | Number of responses | 33                   |         |
| Value  | Count                   | Percent | Value               | Count                | Percent |
| I love it!   | 20                      | 59      | I love it!          | 14                   | 42      |
| I like it  | 11                      | 32      | I like it           | 5                    | 15      |
| I don't like it  | 3                       | 9       | I don't like it     | 14                   | 42      |
| Recommendation   | Native plant/pollinator |         | Recommendation      | Picnic tables        |         |
| Number of responses  | 32                      |         | Number of responses | 32                   |         |
| Value  | Count                   | Percent | Value               | Count                | Percent |
| I love it!   | 25                      | 78      | I love it!          | 14                   | 44      |
| I like it  | 5                       | 16      | I like it           | 5                    | 16      |
| I don't like it  | 2                       | 6       | I don't like it     | 13                   | 41      |
| Recommendation   | Drainage                |         | Recommendation      | Signage              |         |
| Number of responses  | 34                      |         | Number of responses | 33                   |         |
| Value  | Count                   | Percent | Value               | Count                | Percent |
| I love it!   | 28                      | 82      | I love it!          | 13                   | 39      |
| I like it  | 3                       | 3       | I like it           | 15                   | 45      |
| I don't like it  | 3                       | 9       | I don't like it     | 5                    | 15      |
| Recommendation   | Utility box             |         | Recommendation      | Plantings & invasive |         |
| Number of responses  | 34                      |         | Number of responses | 33                   |         |
| Value  | Count                   | Percent | Value               | Count                | Percent |
| I love it!   | 14                      | 41      | I love it!          | 24                   | 73      |
| I like it  | 12                      | 35      | I like it           | 7                    | 21      |
| I don't like it  | 8                       | 24      | I don't like it     | 2                    | 6       |

In the summer of 2019 RPCA staff collected community feedback on the draft recommendations for improving this pocket park. The following information summarizes what was heard through online surveys and community feedback (see appendix for full results). Over 700 responses were collected in total, 34 of which were specific to St. Asaph Park.

Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. The changes to the draft plan support the preservation of the open space, by relocating the path to the edge of the park. Another change from the draft park plan is the replacement of the recommendation to add picnic tables and instead install movable seating so that the open space is maintained and seating is provided in the park.

## Improvement Recommendations



# St. Asaph Park

## Improvement Recommendations

- 1 Upgrade and relocate the lights in the park**  
The existing light fixtures are in poor condition and are located in areas that limit use of the park. Update and relocate the lights to create more space for park use.
- 2 Install a walking path**  
An accessible walking path through the park connects the two park entrances. The path provides accessibility to the picnic tables while maintaining open space for use in the center.
- 3 Provide a native plant/pollinator garden**  
A native plant/pollinator garden is visually pleasing and provides an area for natural habitat within a largely urban setting.
- 4 Create a seating area**  
Install moveable chairs to provide a place to relax and socialize.
- 5 Resolve drainage issues**  
Rainwater and runoff causes ponding in the park. Evaluate drainage improvement options through the engineering and design process.
- 6 Relocate the park sign**  
The park sign is currently somewhat hidden and not near the most used entrance to the park. Additionally, community feedback indicated a desire to remove the barberry bushes along E. Mt. Ida Avenue. Place an updated park sign where the barberry bushes are currently located to provide a clearer entrance to the park.
- 7 Cover utility box with mylar patterned cover**  
Cover the existing green utility box with a natural-looking patterned wrap, similar to the traffic control box wraps project conducted throughout the City in 2015 and 2016.
- 8 Remove invasive species, preserve native plants, and develop a planting plan**  
Develop and implement a plan to remove invasive species, such as barberry bushes, throughout the park. Develop a planting plan for the park identifying and preserving native plants as well as adding new plants.



### Recommendations and Rankings

| Recommendation   | Ranking | Cost |
|--|---------|------|
| Light fixtures   |         |      |
| Walking path   |         |      |
| Native plant/pollinator garden   |         |      |
| Seating area   |         |      |
| Drainage   |         |      |
| Park sign  |         |      |
| Utility box  |         |      |
| Invasive species removal, native plant preservation, and develop planting plan |         |      |

**DRAFT - WILL BE UPDATED IN FEBRUARY 2020**